

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as shown in the complete claim set for this application. This listing of claims will replace all prior claims in the application:

1.-20. **(Cancelled)**

21. **(New)** A method of selecting a wireless data channel for communication with a vehicle, comprising the steps of:

- (a) receiving one or more user preference(s) pertaining to usability characteristics of a wireless data channel;
- (b) ranking a first plurality of wireless data channels from most preferred to least preferred, wherein the ranking is primarily based on the one or more user preference(s);
- (c) identifying a second plurality of wireless data channels available for communication with the vehicle;
- (d) comparing the first and second pluralities of wireless data channels;
- and
- (e) utilizing the comparison to select the most preferred data channel from the second plurality of wireless data channels.

22. **(New)** The method of claim 21, further comprising the steps of:

- (f) monitoring for additional wireless data channels available for communication with the vehicle; and
- (g) selecting one of the additional wireless data channels if it is more preferred than the wireless data channel selected in step (e).

23. **(New)** The method of claim 22, further comprising the step of:

(h) switching from the wireless data channel selected in step (e) to the wireless data channel selected in step (g) without losing the previously transmitted data.

24. **(New)** The method of claim 22, wherein step (f) further comprises monitoring for additional wireless data channels at a periodic rate that is effectively in real-time.

25. **(New)** The method of claim 21, wherein step (a) further comprises receiving the one or more user preference(s) at the vehicle telematics unit from a user that provided them over a wireless network.

26. **(New)** The method of claim 21, wherein step (b) further comprises ranking the first plurality of wireless data channels primarily based on the one or more user preference(s) which are selected from the list consisting of: data channel costs, data channel availability, data channel speed, data channel reliability, and data channel security.

27. **(New)** The method of claim 21, wherein step (b) further comprises ranking the first plurality of wireless data channels based at least partially on the type of network that each channel is associated with.

28. **(New)** The method of claim 27, wherein step (b) further comprises ranking the first plurality of wireless data channels based at least partially on a network that is selected from the list consisting of: a Wi-Fi network, a satellite radio network, and a cellular network.

29. **(New)** The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of:

(f) using a default data channel if no other higher ranked wireless data channel is available.

30. **(New)** A method of selecting a wireless data channel for communication with a vehicle, comprising the steps of:

- (a) receiving one or more user preference(s) pertaining to usability characteristics of a wireless data channel, the user preference(s) are entered by a user through a website and are wirelessly transmitted to the vehicle;
- (b) establishing a channel preference table having rankings of a first plurality of wireless data channels, wherein the channel preference table is maintained at the vehicle and ranks the wireless data channels from most preferred to least preferred based on the user preference(s);
- (c) identifying a second plurality of wireless data channels available for communication with the vehicle;
- (d) comparing the channel preference table to the second plurality of wireless data channels and selecting a most preferred channel for transmitting data from the vehicle;
- (e) monitoring for additional wireless data channels available for communication with the vehicle; and
- (f) if an additional wireless data channel is identified that is more preferred than that selected in step (d), then switching to the additional wireless data channel.